 an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip;  
a retractable finger protruding across a portion of the channel, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging the notch with the finger;  
a button on the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the finger, the button depressible by a thumb on the hand of the skier to retract the finger from the notch in the end portion of the pin, allowing the pin to detach from the attachment mechanism and move out of the channel and toward a top end of the hand of the skier while same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip; and  
an elastic strap sized to length to connect the pin to the glove on the hand of the skier under tension so that, upon depressing the button, the strap can pull the pin out of the attachment mechanism.

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#### REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-7 are allowed. Claim 11 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8-10 and 12 are rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Douillet, European Patent No. 370,900 in view of Wittstock, German Patent No. 4,103,235.

Claims 11 has been rewritten in independent form and is now in condition for allowance.

Regarding the rejection of claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Douillet in view of Wittstock. The Examiner states that Douillet discloses a button (37) which may be depressed against the action of the spring while the skier's hand is wrapped around the grip to release the pin. The Examiner notes that tension in the strap

associated with a drawing of the skier's hand away from the grip would inherently serve to remove the pin from the channel. The Examiner states further that Douillet in figure 8 shows the user's thumb of sufficient length to access the button (37) to release the pin.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 8 states:

" the button depressible by a thumb on the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the pin allowing the ejection mechanism to eject the pin horizontally from the channel out over a top end of the hand of the skier while said same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip."

The system in Douillet does not allow the thumb of a skier to depress button 37 and at the same time allow pin 44 to eject horizontally from the channel 34 out over a top end of the hand of the skier while that same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip as specified in claims 8 and 10. Referring to FIGS. 6 and 8 of Douillet, if a skier used his or her thumb to depress the lever 37, then the pin 44 at the same time necessarily has to snugly butt up into channel 34. This is clearly shown in FIG. 8. The position of lever 37 is on the back side of the ski pole grip 27 and the location of the pin 42,44 is against the palm of the skiers hand. Because the lever 37 is on the backside of the ski pole grip, a skier could not use their thumb to press down lever 37 and still allow the pin 44 to be ejected from channel 34.


In Douillet, if the hand of the skier is still wrapped around the ski pole grip and the thumb is then used to press down latch 37, the pin (44, 42) will not go anywhere. Thus, when the skier releases the latch 37 with the thumb, before they let go of the ski pole grip, the latch arm 39 has already locked back onto pin 44.

The strap release mechanism as defined in claims 8 and 10 of the present invention allow a skier to press down the release button with his or her thumb while their hand is still wrapped around the ski pole grip and at the same time allows the pin to eject horizontally out from the channel. The skier is then free to let go of the skip pole grip at anytime without

inadvertently relatching the pin onto latch arm. Thus, the strap and pin can be released with the skier's thumb without the skier first having to let go of the skip pole grip with his or her hand. This provides a safer, more reliable, and easier to operate release mechanism that disclosed in Douillet.

Accordingly, applicant requests that the amendments be entered and the application be allowed.


Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231 on:

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Signature   
Jessica Leitch